

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (New) A method for use with a system comprising a board packaging line coordinating computer connected with devices constituting a board packaging line through a network and an application server for storing application programs to be provided to the board packaging line coordinating computer, the board packaging line coordinating computer and the application server being connected to each other through an internet, the method comprising:

downloading service contract information and an application program from the application server to the board packaging line coordinating computer, wherein the service contract information is based on a contract with a customer, and the application program is stipulated in the contract information;

defining, via the board packaging line coordinating computer, a board packaging line and a device configuration of the board packaging line covering the application program based on the contract information;

uploading the defined device configuration to the application server from the board packaging line coordinating computer;

retrieving, via the application server, a required device driver from a prepared group of device drivers based on the defined device configuration uploaded from the board packaging line coordinating computer;

downloading the retrieved device driver from the application server to the board packaging line computer; and

setting the downloaded device driver in each device of the board packaging line.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18,

wherein the application program is configured to provide at least one of the operations of set-up management, time-lapse variation management, or defect cause estimation.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18,

wherein the service contract information contains information for identifying the board packaging line coordinating computer, information for identifying the board packaging line, information for identifying the application program covering the board packaging line, information regarding a number of registered devices on the board packaging line, and information regarding a number of changeable devices on the board packaging line.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising:

setting an input/output correspondence between the application program and applicable devices, via the board packaging line coordinating computer, based on the information for identifying the board packaging line, the information for identifying the application program covering the board packaging line, and information regarding the number of registered devices on the board packaging line.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21,

wherein when the device configuration of the board packaging line changes after introducing a predetermined application program to the board packaging line and a scope of change in the device configuration is not more than the number of changeable devices contained in the service contract information, changing the device configuration covering the line, via the board packaging line coordinating computer, without changing the terms and conditions of the contract, and setting a device driver corresponding to the changed device configuration in each device of the board packaging line while at the same time newly setting a data input/output correspondence between the application program and the changed device configuration.

23. (New) The method according to claim 21,

wherein when the device configuration of the board packaging line changes after introducing a predetermined application program to the board packaging line and a scope of change in the device configuration is not more than the number of changeable devices contained in the service contract information, changing the device configuration covering the line via the board packaging line coordinating computer without changing the terms and conditions of the contract, and

wherein when a device driver corresponding to the changed device configuration cannot be set,

uploading the changed device configuration from the board packaging line coordinating computer to the application server;

retrieving a required changed device driver via the application server based on the uploaded changed device configuration;

downloading the retrieved changed device driver from the application server; and

setting the retrieved changed device driver in each device of the board packaging line.

24. (New) The method according to claim 20,

wherein the service contract information further contains an effective period during which the application program is usable, and

wherein when the application program is to be executed by the board packaging line coordinating computer, prohibiting the execution of the application program at a time other than the effective period.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24,

collecting and storing, via the board packaging line coordinating computer, actually used data for the application program including at least one of a total execution time of the application program, a total standby time of the application program, a number of times a specific algorithm is operated in the application program, a number of times the operation result is displayed, a number of boards processed, or a number of specific boards extracted; and

performing, via the application server, a variety of specific charges in accordance with predetermined charge conditions based on the actually used data.

26. (New) The method according to claim 20,

wherein the service contract information contains a cycle period for which actually used data of the application program are to be transmitted and the service contract information is to be updated, and wherein

when the actually used data of the application program is not transmitted or the service contract information is not updated by the board packaging line coordinating computer for a time amount longer than the cycle period, prohibiting the execution of the application program.

27. (New) The method according to claim 20,  
conducting, via the board packaging line coordinating computer, an internet communication with the application server through a communication client.

28. (New) A system comprising:  
a board packaging line coordinating computer connected by a local area network (LAN) with each device constituting a board packaging line; and  
an application server for storing application programs to be provided to the board packaging line coordinating computer connected with the board packaging line coordinating computer through an internet, wherein the board packaging line coordinating computer comprises:

means for downloading, from the application server, service contract information and an application program, wherein the service contract information is based on a contract signed with a customer, and the application program is stipulated in the contract information;

means for defining a board packaging line covered by the application program and a device configuration of the board packaging line based on the contract information;

means for uploading the defined device configuration to the application server;  
and

means for downloading a retrieved device driver from the application server and setting the downloaded device driver in each device of the board packaging line; and

wherein the application server includes means for retrieving a required device driver from a group of prepared device drivers to provide the retrieved device driver, based on the defined device configuration uploaded from the means for uploading the defined device configuration.

29. (New) A system comprising:

a board packaging line coordinating computer connected by a local area network (LAN) to each device constituting a board packaging line;

a communication client computer configured to transmit information through a removable medium to and from the board packaging coordinating computer, and;

an application server for storing application programs to be provided to the board packaging line coordinating computer, the application server and the communication client computer being connected to each other by an internet;

wherein the board packaging line coordinating computer includes:

means for downloading a service contract information and an application program from the application server through a communication client and a removable medium, wherein the service contract information is based on a contract signed with a customer and the application program is stipulated in the contract information;

means for defining a board packaging line covered by the application program and a device configuration of the board packaging line based on the contract information;

means for uploading the defined device configuration to the application server through the communication client and the removable medium to the application server;

means for downloading a retrieved device driver from the application server through the communication client and the removable medium;

means for setting the retrieved device driver in each device of the board packaging line via the LAN; and

wherein the application server includes means for retrieving a required device driver from a group of prepared device drivers to provide the retrieved device driver, based on the defined device configuration uploaded from the means for uploading the defined device configuration through the communication client and the removable medium.

30. (New) A package defect source determining system for detecting a defect source of a board packaging line by transmission and receipt of data between each device constituting the board packaging line and a board packaging line coordinating computer through a network, wherein each device includes a device for performing the mounting process, the system comprising:

an inspection device for determining whether a result of a mounting process performed by a respective of the devices for performing a mounting process is conforming or non-conforming;

a measuring device for acquiring measuring information for determining a defect source, wherein the measuring device is removably mounted on the board packaging line; and

a package defect source determining means, built in the board packaging line coordinating computer, for specifying a defect source based on the information acquired by the measuring device.

31. (New) The package defect source determining system according to claim 30,

wherein the board packaging line coordinating computer is configured to activate the package defect source determining means in response to a notification of a defect from each device constituting the board packaging line.

32. (New) A package defect source determining method for a package defect source determining system for detecting a defect source of a board packaging line by transmission and receipt of data between each device constituting the board packaging line and a board packaging line coordinating computer through a network, wherein the devices include at least a device for performing the mounting process, the method comprising:

determining via an inspection device whether a result of a mounting process is conforming or non-conforming;

acquiring measuring information for determining a defect source via a measuring device removably mounted on the board packaging line; and

operating the defect source determining unit, during the operation of the board packaging line, via the board packaging line coordinating computer, so that a defect source is identified based on the information acquired from the measuring device.

33. (New) The package defect source determining method according to claim 32, further comprising:

activating the defect source determining unit upon receipt of a notification of the occurrence of a defect from the inspection device and thereby identifying the defect source.

34. (New) The package defect source determining method according to claim 33,

wherein the board packaging line coordinating computer acquires at least the measuring information from the measuring device and stores the information in a measurement data storage means during the operation of the board packaging line, and

wherein the defect source is identified utilizing the information stored in the measurement data storage means.